



**NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Environmental Health Section**

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REF FILE: Brownfields

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Dear Government Official(s):

This letter is to introduce you to a new program administered by the Division of Waste Management: the Brownfields Program. We are excited about this program and the opportunities it provides for North Dakota communities.

As you may already be aware, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed a Brownfields Program in 1995. The concept is to take contaminated, underdeveloped, unproductive property and convert it into productive real estate. Brownfield sites are defined as abandoned, idled or underused industrial or commercial properties whose redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

Here in North Dakota we tend to think of Brownfield sites as large, abandoned industrial properties such as steel mills or large manufacturing plants located in cities like Chicago or Detroit. In reality, Brownfield sites could be former service stations, dry cleaners, factories, warehouses, parking lots, hangers, lots where heavy equipment was stored or repaired, or bus facilities. These sites could be changed from potential liabilities into successful developments that will generate revenues and jobs for the community.

The Department has received its first Targeted Brownfields Assessment grant from the EPA. The grant can be used by the Department for environmental assessment activities at Brownfield sites. These assessment activities include environmental activities preliminary to cleanup such as site assessment, site characterization and site response, or cleanup planning and design for areas that have an actual or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Brownfield assessment funds may only be used at sites where there is release, or substantial threat of release, of a hazardous substance, or there is a release, or substantial threat of release of a pollutant or contaminant which may present an imminent and substantial danger to public health or welfare. In addition, funds may be used at sites where there is a reason to believe that a release has occurred or is about to occur. Examples of potential Brownfield sites in North Dakota include:

1. An abandoned retail commercial building which has or is suspected to have asbestos in the ceiling tiles, wall insulation, or on the heating boiler in the basement or pipes coming off the boiler; and

2. An abandoned gas station with soil contamination.

We would expect that the city, county or local economic development group has plans for the property that involves:

1. Renovating the building for reuse;
2. Removing the existing building and rebuilding a new building for occupancy; or
3. Removing the building and creating a "green way." This could be as simple as planting grass and trees, and placing park benches on the site.

We will prioritize sites should the number and potential assessment costs for the sites submitted exceed available funds. We envision that factors such as level of contamination and community commitment toward cleanup and redevelopment will be considered during prioritization.

There is no limit on the number of sites an entity may submit for consideration under the program. If more than one site is submitted, we ask that they be prioritized so that we know which are most important locally for redevelopment. We encourage city leaders and county and economic development officials to discuss potential sites for submission.

Enclosed is an application guideline identifying the information that needs to be submitted to us for review. We are also including material from EPA's Brownfields Website for your information. We encourage you to visit our Division's Website at (<http://www.health.state.nd.us/ndhd/envIRON/wm/index.htm>) and our Brownfields Website which has links to EPA's Brownfields Websites.

This is a new program for us. There may be some adjustments that need to be made as we get the program up and running. We ask that you bear with us in this process. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 328-5166.

Sincerely,



Curtis L. Erickson, Manager  
Hazardous Waste Program  
Division of Waste Management

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